

Appl. No.: 10/523,903
Reply to Office Action of: 06/19/2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2 and 3.

A lead line has been added for reference number 8.

REMARKS

The specification and drawings have been amended to address comments made by the examiner in the last office action.

Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larabell (US 6,047,379) in view of Spagnaletti (US 6,496,626) and Shechter (US 5,043,949). Claims 8-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larabell (US 6,047,379) in view of Spagnaletti (US 6,496,626), Shechter (US 5,043,949), Krakovich (US 6,160,485) and Martin (US 5,769,645). Claims 8-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 97/06514 in view of Krakovich (US 6,160,485), Larabell (US 6,047,379) and Martin (US 5,769,645). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 8 claims that the connector system comprises a first electrical connector on a first electronic device; and a cable assembly comprising a cable and a second electrical connector connected to an end of the cable. The second electrical connector is adapted to be directly connected to the first electrical connector, and the cable extends directly away from the second electrical connector. The second electrical connector comprises an active electronic circuit inside the second electrical connector. The active electronic circuit comprises an active equalization device adapted to improve quality of signals transmitted from the first electrical connector to the second electrical connector. The electronic circuit of the second electrical connector is

powered, in operation, by the power supply line of the first electrical connector, and the second electrical connector prevents substantive voltage from the power supply line from being carried by the cable. There is no disclosure or suggestion in the cited art of the combined features recited in claim 8. Certainly, repeaters are known in the art. However, nowhere is there a disclosure or suggestion of an electrical connector comprising an active electronic circuit inside the second electrical connector; the active electronic circuit comprising an active equalization device adapted to improve quality of signals transmitted from a first electrical connector to the electrical connector. Even if Larabell et al. was modified to not send power to the device 90 through line 80, this still does not disclose or suggest a power supply line solely dedicated to supply power to an active electronic circuit inside an electrical connector as recited in claim 8.


WO 97/06514 discloses a connector 1 with a voltage regulator 10. "11" is a differential line driver/receiver circuit which buffers digital signals by conversion to RS422. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in WO 97/06514 (alone or in combination with the other cited art) of an active equalization device adapted to improve quality of signals transmitted from a first electrical connector to a second electrical connector with a power supply line solely dedicated to direct supply power to an active electronic circuit inside an electrical connector, in combination with the other features recited in claim 8.

Independent claims 13 and 15 have been similarly amendment. The features of claim 13 and 15 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art.

Though the claims dependent upon the independent claims contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable independent claims. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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10/15/07
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